

OCI No. 0759/65

8 February 1965

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: UAR, Syrian and Iraqi Holdings of Soviet  
 Bloc Military Equipment; Jordan's Armed  
 Forces

1. Communist countries, primarily the USSR, have provided military assistance worth an estimated \$2 billion--prior to discounts--to the UAR, Syria and Iraq since 1955. Military deliveries to these countries are continuing. A new agreement was concluded with Iraq in mid-1964, talks probably leading to a new pact were held with Syria in October, and new contracts with the UAR are likely to be concluded shortly. The following inventories are believed to include all major items of equipment now held by the respective countries.

UAR (EGYPT)

2. The Bloc has provided \$1 billion worth of military equipment, the bulk of it from the Soviet Union.

| <u>Item</u>                                                                                             | <u>Holdings</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>AIR</u>                                                                                              |                 |
| MIG-21 jet fighters (some AAM-equipped)                                                                 | 102             |
| MIG-19 jet fighters                                                                                     | 39              |
| MIG 15/17 jet fighters                                                                                  | 110             |
| IL-28 jet light bombers                                                                                 | 44              |
| TU-16 jet medium bombers                                                                                | 20              |
| IL-14 twin engine transports                                                                            | 54              |
| AN-10 four engine turboprop transports                                                                  | 1               |
| AN-12 four engine turboprop transports<br>(including five, with Soviet crews,<br>on loan from the USSR) | 16              |
| Helicopters (including 5 MI-6/HOOK)                                                                     | 41              |
| Radar EW/GCI                                                                                            | 60              |

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| <u>Item</u>                                           | <u>Holdings</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>GROUND</u>                                         |                 |
| Heavy tanks                                           | 60              |
| Medium tanks                                          | 800             |
| Amphibious tanks                                      | 20              |
| Assault guns                                          | 200             |
| Armored vehicles                                      | 800             |
| Recoilless weapons (including 120 anti-tank missiles) | 800             |
| Anti-aircraft artillery                               | 400             |
| Anti-tank artillery                                   | 300             |
| Field artillery                                       | 500             |
| Surface-to-air missile sites (SA-2)                   | 20*             |
| <u>NAVAL</u>                                          |                 |
| Destroyers                                            | 4               |
| Submarines                                            | 10              |
| Motor torpedo boats                                   | 25              |
| Guided missile motor boats ("Komar")                  | 8               |
| Submarine chasers                                     | 6               |
| Minesweepers                                          | 6               |
| Patrol craft                                          | 2               |

SYRIA

3. The USSR and Czechoslovakia have provided an estimated \$325 million worth of military equipment and training since 1955. The last known major Soviet-Syrian arms deal was concluded in 1962 and deliveries under this agreement are continuing. Military aid talks held in October 1964 probably involved adjustments to the 1962 agreement and possibly procurement of additional materiel.

| <u>Item</u>           | <u>Holdings</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>AIR</u>            |                 |
| MIG-21 jet fighters   | 33              |
| MIG-17 jet fighters   | 40              |
| U-MIG-15 jet fighters | 6               |

\* Some of these sites have not been equipped with missiles. We do not know how many of the sites are operational or how many missiles the UAR has. Twenty sites would call for about 500 missiles according to Soviet practice.

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| <u>Item</u>                          | <u>Holdings</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>AIR (Continued)</u>               |                 |
| IL-28 jet light bombers              | 4               |
| IL-14 twin jet transports            | 8               |
| Helicopters                          | 9               |
| Radar EW/GCI                         | 26              |
| <u>GROUND</u>                        |                 |
| Medium tanks                         | 400             |
| Assault guns                         | 80              |
| Armored vehicles                     | 450             |
| Recoilless weapons                   | 500             |
| Anti-aircraft artillery              | 200             |
| Anti-tank artillery                  | 100             |
| Field artillery                      | 220             |
| <u>NAVAL</u>                         |                 |
| Motor Torpedo Boats                  | 15              |
| Guided Missile Motor Boats ("Komar") | 4               |
| Minesweepers                         | 2               |

IRAQ

4. The USSR agreed to provide Iraq with about \$370 million worth of military equipment and training under four major arms deals, the last of which was concluded in June 1964. Most of this aid was delivered prior to the overthrow of the Qasim regime in February 1963. The SAM program was suspended by the Ba'th Government which assumed power at that time, and the entire Soviet aid effort was subjected to close scrutiny. In mid-June 1963, when relations between Moscow and Baghdad were severely strained, the USSR cut off major military deliveries. In August, the USSR agreed to resume shipments and since then most of the materiel programmed under earlier agreements has been shipped to the present regime which came to power in November 1963.

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| <u>Item</u>                                           | <u>Holdings</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>AIR</u>                                            |                 |
| MIG-21 jet fighters (some equipped with AAMs)         | 16              |
| MIG-17 jet fighters                                   | 17              |
| IL-28 jet fighters                                    | 14              |
| TU-16 jet medium bombers                              | 10              |
| AN-12 four engine turboprop transports                | 3               |
| AN-2 light transports                                 | 3               |
| Helicopters                                           | 18              |
| Radar EW/GCI                                          | 32              |
| Air-to-air missiles for MIG-21s                       | 160             |
| <u>GROUND</u>                                         |                 |
| Medium tanks                                          | 80              |
| Assault guns                                          | 120             |
| Armored vehicles                                      | 460             |
| Recoilless weapons (including 260 anti-tank missiles) | 400             |
| anti-aircraft artillery                               | 360             |
| Anti-tank artillery                                   | 20              |
| Field artillery                                       | 650             |
| <u>NAVAL</u>                                          |                 |
| Motor Torpedo Boats                                   | 12              |
| Submarine Chasers                                     | 3               |
| Patrol Craft                                          | 2               |

JORDAN'S ARMED FORCES

5. The total strength of the regular Jordanian army is 37,400. In addition, about 8,500 lightly armed National Guardsmen help guard Jordan's frontier with Israel. We believe the army is capable of maintaining internal security, but it is incapable of engaging in sustained offensive combat without outside assistance. Defensively, it could contain attacks by any one neighboring Arab army and could probably hold parts of West Jordan against Israeli attack for as much as three or four days. It is weak in air defense.

6. At present, the army is in the midst of reorganizing and modernizing with the aid of US-supplied equipment. Current plans call for disbanding the

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National Guard and creating 4 to 6 additional infantry brigades which would probably include organic armor. So far, 3,950,000 pounds sterling have been disbursed to Jordan by the United Arab Command. These payments have come from a joint fund to which contributions have been made by the Arab states which participated in the Cairo Conferences of January and September 1964.

7. The army is still using mainly British equipment, but it is attempting to standardize on US equipment. The US equipment presently held includes medium tanks, field artillery, anti-tank weapons, small arms and Ford trucks. An inventory of all major items of equipment now held follows:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Medium tanks               | 220 |
| Anti-tank and assault guns | 30  |
| Motorized field artillery  | 25  |
| Armored vehicles           | 350 |
| Recoilless weapons         | 300 |
| Anti-aircraft artillery    | 65  |
| Anti-tank artillery        | 80  |
| Field artillery            | 180 |

8. Jordan has 24 Hawker Hunter and 8 jet fighters. The Vampires are in storage. The air force, without the assistance of other Arab air forces, has a very limited combat capability against Israel. Jordanian pilots are well trained for tactical missions and could effectively support ground forces against an internal rebellion. There is a fair transport capability. Personnel strength is approximately 1,800.

9. A small naval force of about 100 men operates as a component of the Jordanian army. It has nine small craft on the Dead Sea and two small patrol launches at Aqaba. The combat capability of this force is virtually nil.

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